

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 through 12 have been amended for clarification and new claims 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been added. Thus, claims 1 through 16 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e):

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Abbruzzese et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,557,515).

Abbruzzese et al. discusses a system for managing work-in-process in which security for selectively limiting access to certain predetermined functions of the system in accordance with a preset security level associated with each authorization code is provided. Accordingly, the Abbruzzese et al. security system locks out a user after a specified number of unsuccessful login attempts.

In Abbruzzese et al., the object entered by the end user to obtain access consists of user identification information (usually, a user's initials) and a user password. See column 15, lines 56-67. However, the object for which authorization is requested for in the present invention is an electronically processed document such as an estimation sheet prepared by a person in charge for a supervisor's review. See Fig. 2A of the present invention. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to clarify that the input information to which "an object requesting authorization" is directed to in the present invention and the user identification and the user password information in Abbruzzese et al. are distinguishable.

Abbruzzese et al. provides a security system where each user is assigned a particular security level based on the user's responsibilities to limit the system functions and transactions, which can be accessed or performed by the user. See column 15, lines 56-67 through column 16, lines 1-15, and column 35, lines 35-40. Abbruzzese et al. also discusses a comparison method to compare the user's preset security level with the level of the function requested by the user during each user login into the system. Further, in Abbruzzese et al., if an incorrect password or user identification is entered a preset amount of times, an error message will be displayed and the user will be locked out of the system. Consequently, results of the password and user identification verification according to Abbruzzese et al. relate to the number of times

the user unsuccessfully attempted to login, the security level associated with a certain function, and the security level granted to a specific user. See column 15, lines 56-67 through column 16, lines 1-15.

In contrast, "... an authorization result registration function registering a result of authorization in a database..." in the present invention refers to a plurality of elements of a user's work product to be reviewed by a supervisor. For example, elements of a user's work product include request numbers, object classification codes, object names, codes of requesting departments, codes of requesting persons, and dates of request. See Fig. 2A, 2B, and corresponding text in the specification. Therefore, the registration function to register results of authorization in the present invention is distinct from the record of login attempts stored in Abbruzzese et al. Further, the security system of Abbruzzese et al. verifies a user by comparing the function's required authority level with the user's stored authority level. However, in the present invention, the main purpose of the authorization process is not determining consistency between a stored authorization result and the object requesting authorization. Instead, it is to refer to past results of authorization in the database for each previously processed authorization of the requester and limit the checking points to improve efficiency and quality of authorization work. See page 2 in the specification of the present invention.

In addition, according to the present invention, "...said authorization result registration function registers, in the database, said result of authorization or repudiation...and repudiation reasons when the repudiation is rendered", which are detailed descriptions of previous authorization. For example, the number of times typographical errors were made, the type of mistakes made such as mistakes in calculation and mistakes in calculation, and ratio of repudiation reasons in a form of a chart. See Fig. 6 of the present invention. However, the output according to the Abbruzzese et al. security system is an error message, if three unsuccessful login attempts have occurred, and an alert message to a supervisor. See column 16, lines 1-15. Therefore, while the detailed reports of previously made errors allow a supervisor to limit the checking points during an authorization process according to the present invention, the Abbruzzese et al. system seems to be solely concerned with ensuring secure access to the system.

Therefore, Abbruzzese et al. does not anticipate the recitation in claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-

10 that "...registers a result of authorization in a database and makes reference to the past results of authorization registered" for each electronically processed task and for each user requesting authorization.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a):

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 4, 8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbruzzese et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,557,515).

On pages 4 through 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "a ratio of the repudiated reasons during a predetermined term in the form of a chart concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database" is common and well known in the prior art in reference to system authorization. The ratio generation function referred to by the Examiner is directed to security systems in which a number of unsuccessful login attempts are stored and from which a chart may be formed. For example, the Abbruzzese et al. security system does not record detailed elements of an authorization result such as the types of errors a user might make during the user's login. However, according to the present invention, the ratio generation function relates to the detailed descriptions of results of authorization or repudiation of electronically processed documents. For example, the present invention, not only generates ratio of the number of times a certain error has been made, but also various elements such as the specific types of errors made, the actual user who made such error in the past, and the department in which the user works.

Accordingly, the arguments presented above supporting patentability of independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are hereby incorporated to support the patentability of dependent claims 4, 8, and 12.

The burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness based upon the prior art lies with the Examiner. In re Fritch, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992). According to In re Fritch, the Examiner "... can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references." Abbruzzese et al. does not teach "an authorization result registration function of registering a result of authorization in a database" when a request is made for authorization of an electronically processed document.

Further, Abbruzzese et al. does not teach the method recited in dependent claim 12 that displays "a ratio of the repudiation reasons ...during a predetermined term in the form of a chart..." detailing specific elements characteristic of the past stored results of authorization where references are made to the types of errors made and the frequency of the same. And "the security means comprising security level means for selectively limiting access to certain predetermined functions of the system in accordance with a preset security level associated with each authorization code" discussed in claim 26 of Abbruzzese et al. is different from the one used in the present invention as the two are directed to comparison of different categories of data.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 13, 14, and 15 highlight a method according to an aspect of the invention that enables a user reviewing another's completed task to refer to previously stored review information for comparison. As a result, the user is able to limit the check points required to complete a review task, thus, improving the efficiency and quality of the review process. Abbruzzese et al. does not teach or suggest this. The prior art does not teach or suggest such.

Further, new claim 16 emphasizes the comparing of a current task for the user or person in charge of the current task to the stored completed tasks for the user, and providing the supervisor or reviewer for the current task the review information for similar completed tasks. This allows the reviewer to more efficiently complete the review because the review history of the user for similar tasks is available to the supervisor. The prior art does not teach or suggest such.

Therefore, Abbruzzese et al. does not teach or suggest each of the features of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 12, through 16. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and further, that all pending claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding

objections or rejections, the claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

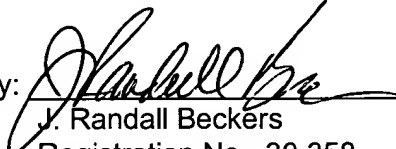
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

7/20/13

By: _____


J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 434-1500